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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 21 (Cancelled)

22. (New) A method, including the steps of:

receiving first and second induced messages at a first device from a second device,  
said first and second induced messages induced by said first device;

sending jam packet messages from said first device to said second device, said jam  
packet messages interfering with said second device sending said second induced messages;

comparing how many of said first induced messages are received by said first device  
when said jam packet messages are not present with how many of said second induced messages are  
received by said first device when said jam packet messages are present; and

determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device and  
said second device based on a result of said step of comparing.

23. (New) A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of adjusting protocol  
parameters of said first device to match those of said second device responsive to said step of  
determining.

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24. (New) A method as in claim 22, wherein said first device and said second device communicate over an Ethernet connection.

25. (New) A method as in claim 22, wherein at least one of said first device and said second device includes an end-host or a switch.

26. (New) A method as in claim 22, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of communication between said first device and said second device as half-duplex or full-duplex.

27. (New) A method as in claim 22, wherein said first message, second message, and jam packet messages are also sent to one or more other devices.

28. (New) A device, comprising:

a communication link to at least a second device;

a processor that executes instructions; and

a memory storing the instructions including the steps of (a) receiving first and second induced messages at a first device from a second device, said first and second induced messages induced by said first device; (b) sending jam packet messages to said second device, said jam packet messages interfering with said second device sending said second induced messages; (c) comparing how many of said first induced messages are received when said jam packet messages are not present

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with how many of said second induced messages are received when said jam packet messages are present; and (d) determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists with said second device based on a result of said step of comparing.

29. (New) A device as in claim 28, wherein said instructions further include the steps of adjusting protocol parameters of said device to match those of said second device responsive to said step of determining.

30. (New) A device as in claim 28, wherein said device and said second device communicate over an Ethernet connection.

31. (New) A device as in claim 28, wherein at least one of said device and said second device includes an end-host or a switch.

32. (New) A device as in claim 28, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of communication between said device and said second device as half-duplex or full-duplex.

33. (New) A device as in claim 28, wherein said first message, second message, and jam packet messages are also sent to one or more other devices.